



NEWS RELEASE

EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: To request interviews with the EPICON team,
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EPICON team begins investigation

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The U.S. Army Medical Command's (MEDCOM) Epidemiology Consultation Team (EPICON) today began the investigative process into the three deaths in Germany attributed to sub groups of meningococcal bacteria.

After an Air Force civilian, an Army active-duty Soldier and an Army family member died within six days of each other, the Europe Regional Medical Command requested the EPICON team from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, a subordinate command MEDCOM.

Today the team is finalizing a formal medical questionnaire, or standardized set of questions, to use when talking with anyone who may have come in contact with those who died. They will review medical records and automated medical systems to gather health care encounters and laboratory test results. Some members of the team are establishing a medical data base to capture information collected during the data collection process. Other members are developing a vaccination contingency plan in case the results of the investigation conclude this may be necessary.

The team is in Schweinfurt today talking with family members and others who may have come in contact with Kimberly Wesson, 23, a military spouse from Schweinfurt, Germany, who died Friday in a local German hospital there.